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DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/EX

E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: <u>PGOV PREL IZ</u>

SUBJECT: LETTER OF CONDOLENCE FOR VP BIDEN FROM IRAQI VP

AL-MAHDI

The following is the text of a condolence letter for Vice President Biden received from Iraq Vice President Adil Abd al-Mahdi:

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
The Vice President of the United States
Washington, DC

Dear Vice President Biden,

It is with deep regret that I learned of the death of your mother, Mrs. Catherine Biden. May God rest her soul in peace and give you and your family the strength to grieve her loss. She will always be remembered for her contributions to your political career as well as your personal life. As we say in Koran, "We are from God and to Him we return". (Enaa Lil Lah wa enaaa elayhee rageoon).

With our deepest sympathy,

Adil Abd al-Mahdi Vice President of Iraq 10-Jan-2010

No signed original will follow.

HILL